



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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TERRORIST DEPORTED TO INDIA -- *ICE Wins 16 Year Court Battle To Deport Terrorist*

PHILADELPHIA- A terrorist's 16-year fight to avoid being deported from the United States ended Monday when U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers escorted him back to his native India.

The deportation of Charenjit Singh, 43--who was found by a federal court to have actively engaged in terrorism, supported terrorists and who was linked to two terrorist organizations in India--was the result of a precedent-setting decision in September by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

"The deportation caps a key victory for ICE and closes a chapter in a very long fight to deport someone who violated our laws," said Robb Emery, Division Chief of ICE's National Security Law Division. "He is not the first terrorist to have tried to exploit the nation's immigration system, but we are committed to preventing others like him from succeeding."

Singh's case stretches back to September 1989. Singh was arrested and placed in deportation proceedings on September 29, 1989, two days after he illegally entered the United States near El Paso, Texas. After initially being ordered deported for failing to attend his immigration hearing, Singh successfully petitioned the immigration court to reopen his case and have it transferred to Philadelphia where he eventually filed an application for lawful permanent resident status in the United States. His case was finally heard in January 1997 and in February 1998 an immigration judge granted Singh lawful permanent resident status, despite his admitted membership in two terrorist groups.

ICE appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board), arguing that under the Immigration and Nationality Act, Singh was never eligible for legal status in the United States because of his membership in the terrorist groups. One of those organizations, Babbar Khalsa, is officially designated by the U.S. Department of State as a terrorist organization.

The Board sustained ICE's appeal on February 25, 2003, and ordered Singh deported. Singh appealed to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, which affirmed the Board's decision. ICE special agents arrested Singh September 27, 2004, and he was held in Philadelphia until he was deported.

ICE attorneys litigated more than 300,000 removal cases in immigration court in the 2004 Fiscal Year, as well as more than 48,000 appeals cases before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.